Mercy petition of Afzal

1756. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reported statement of former President of India while in office that he has sent back the Mercy Petition of Afzal to Ministry of Home Affairs for comments and he has not received any reply till he demitted his office is true;

(b) if so, the background and the reasons, if any for the inordinate delay or non response on a most important issue about which the whole Nation is interested, may be explained; and

(c) will there be a time frame to offer comments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The mercy petitions filed before the President of India by the condemned prisoner Mohd. Afzal and others on his behalf are being processed in accordance with the prescribed procedure, for submission to the President.

(c) The power under Article 72 of the Constitution does not contain any limitation as to the time, in which the power conferred might be exercised.

Flood havoc in the country

1757. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated loss of life and property due to flash floods across the country in the current monsoon season, State-wise;

(b) what immediate steps are being taken to provide relief and rehabilitation to the affected people in these States;

(c) what is the total outlay for flood relief activities in these States; and

(d) what measures are being considered to chalk out permanent protection for the people who are getting affected regularly due to the torrential rains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the State Governments and Union Territory, based on their preliminary assessment, estimated loss due to heavy rains/ floods/flash floods during South-west monsoon 2007, State-wise, are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

The execution of the rescue and relief measures in the event of natural disasters is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The distribution of relief on the ground is made by the concerned State. The Central Government